***Press* Release**

The Meteorological Office

PRESS OFFICE

20 December 1999 nr 386

Milder weather on the way

As we head towards Christmas, Met. Office forecasters are predicting milder weather to move in from the Atlantic during the week, replacing the current wintry conditions that are gripping the country. However before it turns milder on Wednesday, there is likely to be snow in many places on Tuesday, and an early warning of severe weather has just been issued by The Met. Office.

Ewen McCallum, Head of Forecasting in The Met. Office, said: "Christmas Day looks set to be showery and windy, but for those people hoping for a 'white Christmas', the only part of the country that may see some snow will be Scotland, especially on the hills"

The forecast for the new millennium period is for changeable and often windy weather, but it is too early to give more specific details.

Notes

1. A white Christmas according to the bookmakers is when snow falls on the roof of the London Weather Centre on Christmas Day, and under this criteria, there have been nine white Christmases this century.

2. The mildest Christmas Day temperature recorded this century was 15.6 ºC at Killerton, Devon in 1920.

For media enquiries contact:
The Met. Office Press Office (+44) 1344 856655

Crown Copyright 1999